



Indian Head Park Police

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Gypsy Scams

What are Gypsies?

Gypsies are individuals of the Gypsy culture, who have decided to live a criminal lifestyle. They are usually criminals and specialize in committing home repair fraud, ruse entry burglary, and burglary. In general, these types of crime are non-violent. It is important to note that it is the "style," not the "con" that identifies Gypsies as the perpetrators of a crime.

The physical appearance of a Gypsy can be generally described as Caucasian with a medium to dark complexion, dark hair and dark eyes. They are oftentimes mistaken as Hispanic by victims.

How do They Con and Steal from Others?

Spring and summer are very active times for Gypsy-related, criminal activities. The number of Gypsies involved in a crew can range between two and six. At times, American Gypsy women and children will accompany a male Gypsy, or two women will work together as a team. A look-out is often used. The look-out usually sits in the vehicle and may sound the horn if the police are spotted. Gypsies primarily target elderly persons and are experts at finding and profiling a home occupied by a senior citizen. They will choose a home by the style of drapes, poorly maintained lawns, single garbage cans and four-door sedans. Gypsies are experts at providing false identification to avoid apprehension and will use a variation of family names and birth dates.

How to protect yourself?

-Never allow someone to perform driveway sealing or any other home repairs on the spot. Ask for a business card to check on the reputation for the business and then end the conversation. Do not deliberate and debate work that needs to be done. Gypsies try to pressure you into doing the work immediately to avoid getting caught by the police. If possible, get the license plate number for their vehicle and inform the police department of the incident. When in doubt, call the police department to verify the identity of the person, who is talking to you and giving you information.

-Never let anyone into your home. If someone claims they need assistance for any reason, tell them you will contact the police to assist them. If they tell you they are with a utility company, call the utility company to verify the work. Again, if you are unable to make contact with the utility company to learn if there is a work order, call 9-1-1.

-If you are approached while you are outside, do not let anyone roam your property. This usually gives them an opportunity to check for open doors while you are being distracted.

-If you suspect something is suspicious in nature or is out of the ordinary, do not hesitate to call the Indian Head Park Police by dialing 9-1-1. There is no charge for this type of phone call, and does not constitute an abuse of 9-1-1

Note: this information about gypsies pertains to those individual, self-proclaimed gypsies who have elected to live the criminal lifestyle. There are other transient criminals, who do similar type of cons. All of the above advisories should be followed, and remember to call the Indian Head Park Police Department **(9-1-1)**.